AFL WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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LABOR DAY MESSAGE

By GEORGE MEANY
Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Labor

GEORGE MEANY

On this Labor Day of 1951 one thing should be clear to all of us in the trade union movement. As trade unionists and as citizens of our great country we have an even greater responsibility to our nation and to our members. We must fight as never before to defend human freedom from the ominous threat of totalitarian aggression. To do this we must keep our country strong and we must maintain our freedom here at home.

We are the strongest and richest nation on earth because the standard of living of the great mass of the American people, generally, is higher than the standard of living of any other people. And our standard of living is so high because of the never-ending fight of our free trade union movement over the past 100 years for progress.

Back in the early days our prime method was organization. In those days Gompers closed his speeches with one word, repeated three times—"organize! organize! organize!" Of course, organizing the unorganized still remains a major objective of the AFL. But in order to preserve the things we have gained and make further advances, we have got to think of new methods.

We have got to think in terms of methods that we, to some extent, shied away from in the past.

The American worker traditionally is an independent guy. Back in the early days he looked upon his union and said, "Fine, the union should take care of my job, should see to it I get good conditions of work, and that I get good wages and decent hours. But the union should keep its nose out of my politics."

That was the attitude and the basic philosophy of the average American worker. Under that philosophy of independence labor fought and won many battles.

Now we have to meet a new threat. We can no longer afford to take the position that we have no interest in politics.

Where the "American Plan" failed, where the starvation plan of the employers failed, where the anti-labor injunction failed to subdue labor and put it in the position of fighting defensively, the Taft-Hartley law has succeeded.

On June 4, 1951, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down three decisions under the Taft-Hartley Act, all of them affecting the building trades, and all of them laying down this interpretation of the intent of Congress under the Taft-Hartley Law—that there can be no union activity directed toward the refusal of union men to work alongside of nonunion men.

That is an official decision of the United States Supreme Court. The court doesn't say whether the law is good or bad. The court merely says it is constitutional, it was the intent of Congress, and it is the law.

The Taft-Hartley Law has thus done what employers never before in our time have been able to accomplish.

If we are going to correct that situation we have got to correct it under the Constitution, by the same method, by which the law was foisted on us.

Keep this in mind. When they counted the votes to enact the Taft-Hartley Act in 1947, we got a fair count. When they overruled President Truman's veto of that law we got a fair count. Big Business as represented by the National Association of Manufacturers, and as represented by their lackeys like Taft and Hartley in Congress—Big Business had the votes. We didn't have them. So, if we are going to correct that situation, there is only one way I know of and that is by getting the votes.

We are never going to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act until we put into Congress men and women friendly to the ideals and principles of this great labor movement.

Organizing political machinery through Labor's League for Political Education is hard work. It is not just a question of making a talk and then forgetting it. It is hard, laborious work. But bad as the Taft-Hartley Law is, it still leaves every local union in this country free to take the initial step in that work.

There is nothing on the statute books to prevent a local union from initiating and carrying through a campaign and using its funds to finance that campaign in order to get its own members to go to the polls on election day.

And if we get our families, and our own members and our friends, to the polls, we don't have to worry about the results. We know how they will vote. We know they are going to vote for people who are going to give some consideration to the welfare and interests of the great masses of wage earners who in reality are the wealth of this great country.

The job has got to be done in every precinct, it has got to be done in every district. There is no voting in Washington. Congressmen are elected out in the field. The job has to be done locally.

This is a long range project, but it can be done. Labor can prove, as it met the challenges of the past, as it met the fight for the "American Plan," as it met the starvation attempt, as it met tear gas and company thugs, as it met the anti-labor injunction, that it can meet this political threat.

Labor Day, September 3, 1951, is a good day for us to resolve that we will do all in our power to meet and overcome the political threat that hangs menacingly over the future of organized labor.

Editors Please Note!

This is a special issue of advance material for Labor Day issues. As additional Labor Day material becomes available, it will be published with suitable identification in succeeding issues of the AFL Weekly News Service. This includes mats as well as articles, messages and features.

PETER J. McGUIRE
1852—1906

Father of Labor Day, founder United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, and co-founder with Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor. Buried in Camden, N. J.

Camden CLU Set To Honor Founder Of Labor Day

Camden, N. J.—The AFL Central Labor Union scheduled its annual Labor Day memorial service at the grave of Peter McGuire, the carpenter and first secretary of the American Federation of Labor, who fathered Labor Day as one of America's great national holidays.

Joseph C. Nettleton, CLU secretary, said the memorial service will be followed by a picnic.

The remains of Mr. McGuire are buried in Arlington Cemetery in suburban Pennsauken. He died in a Vine Street house in 1906 with 2 cents in his pocket after a lifetime crusade to achieve recognition of labor's rights.

He was born in Dublin in 1852, a year after Samuel Gompers, founder and first president, was born in London.

In 1881, Pete McGuire prodded New York's Knights of Labor to hold the first Labor Day parade up Fifth Avenue. Then he waged a continuing campaign to have the first Monday of September set aside as a national Labor Day. In 1894, after many states had already done so, the Congress made Labor Day a national holiday.

LABOR DAY, 1951

By WILLIAM GREEN
President of the American Federation of Labor

WILLIAM GREEN

On this Labor Day, the 8 million members of the American Federation of Labor would do well to take stock of the status of our trade union movement in the community, in the nation and in the world.

Our first consideration must be given to security—the security of peace, the security of our precious freedom, and the security of our standards of work and living.

Events have proved beyond question that the only serious threat to world peace stems from the Kremlin. Because of Soviet Russia's aggressive imperialism, we were forced to intervene as the agent of the United Nations to defend Korea. Because of the Communists' far-flung preparations for further aggressions against peaceful nations of Europe and Asia, we were compelled to initiate a vast national defense program supplemented by military and economic assistance to our allies.

As we take inventory of these basic policies and programs, we are justified by the results in reaching the conclusion that America followed a wise and courageous course. Labor should be proud of the fact that it consistently supported firm resistance against Soviet aggression and full collaboration with the free nations of the world.

Moreover, from the beginning, the American Federation of Labor has backed up the defense program to the hilt, uncomplainingly accepting major sacrifices and emergency controls over wages.

Our one demand has been for equality of sacrifice in the defense program. We appealed to the government and we appealed to Congress for action to stabilize the cost of living so that the nation's workers could undergo wage stabilization without serious impairment of living standards.

Our request for representation on key defense agencies was complied with by the government.

But Congress turned us down. The same coalition of Dixiecrats and reactionary Republicans that was responsible for the enactment of the reprehensible Taft-Hartley Act teamed up against us again. It rejected our appeal for strengthening of price control and opened the door for higher prices and still higher profits at the behest of Big Business interests.

And so, as we take stock, we come to the inevitable conclusion that unless we expand and perfect our political activities organized labor stands to lose through hostile legislation much of the ground that it has gained over the years through organization, struggle and collective bargaining.

The big job ahead of us is to shatter the grip which the stand-pat coalitionists hold over Congress. We must elect a liberal Congress in 1952 in order to safeguard the interests of the nation's workers and consumers.

In view of the grave problems confronting our modern world, every American citizen must do his or her part in preserving peace, freedom and economic progress. More than ever before, political action is the key toward the achievement of those goals. We must have a government and a Congress responsive to the needs of the people and alert to the dangers besetting the free world. We can have such a government and such a Congress if every qualified citizen makes certain to vote.

Therefore, labor will redouble its efforts to get out the vote in the 1952 campaign.

During the past year, labor at the local, national and international level reached new heights of influence, prestige and constructive leadership. In the year ahead, if peace can be made secure, we hope to make further gains in our constant effort to lift the standards of life not only for our own members but for human beings throughout the world.

Labor Day Talks

Labor Day celebrations will be held by AFL organizations throughout the country, although because of the national emergency there will be fewer than usual this year.

AFL President William Green will deliver his Labor Day address at the International Labor Day celebration in Toronto, Canada. He will also broadcast a message to the workers of the United States on the evening of Labor Day over the National Broadcasting Company network.

AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany will deliver a pre-Labor Day talk over the Mutual Broadcasting Company network.

Exact times for the two broadcasts will be announced later.

Labor Press Calls Convention

ILPA Plans to Meet in San Francisco on Sept. 14-16

Newark, N. J.—The International Labor Press of America called its 40th anniversary convention to order in San Francisco Sept. 14, 15 and 16, just prior to the start of the AFL 70th Convention on Sept. 17.

The objectives and schedule of the convention were set forth in the call signed by President Matthew Woll and Secretary-Treasurer Lewis M. Herrmann. They said:

"Samuel Gompers founded the International Labor Press of America just 40 years ago and, since its inception, it has blazed the way for the progress of trade unionism in this country. Today it is the recognized and respected voice of organized labor.

"Labor editors and international union officers should make a special effort to attend this convention, at which the role of the labor press will be decided for the coming year on such important issues as wage-price controls, public housing, Labor's League for Political Education.

"Prospects for favorable consideration of labor legislation on the national as well as state levels is most discouraging and the responsibility of carrying the fight against labor's enemies at the polls will be greater than ever before during the coming 12 months.

"It is imperative that the labor press meets its obligation to the working people of this country. Your active support is needed in helping us meet this challenge."

Forums to afford editors of international journals and local labor papers a chance to discuss problems of mutual interest at Labor Press Offices, Sir Francis Drake Hotel, commence 2 p.m., Friday, Sept. 14.

General time table: Friday, Sept. 14—10 a.m.—Committee on Credentials registers delegates at Labor Press Headquarters, Sir Francis Drake Hotel; 2 p.m.—Two workshop forums: (1) International journals, (2) local publications, will be held in Labor Press Headquarters; 7 p.m.—ILP executive council annual meeting.

Saturday, Sept. 15—10 a.m.—Official opening of convention; 1 p.m.—ILP luncheon; 2:30 p.m.—afternoon session.

Sunday, Sept. 16—10:30 a.m.—Convention reconvenes; 7:30 p.m.—annual convention banquet. Presentation of journalistic awards. All functions take place at Sir Francis Drake Hotel.

GREEN WELCOMES GERMAN MINER.—Washington.—AFL President William Green (left) welcomes on visit to his office Johann Piatte, Essen, Germany, chief of the press office of the German Miners Union.

Illinois Labor Hails New State Law Permitting Co-op Health Plans

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent AFL News Service

Chicago.—The 1951 Illinois legislature passed 3 bills which allow labor unions and other groups to set up their own clinics and hospitals in which group members may receive prepaid medical benefits.

The new laws modify a 1945 statute which made it practically impossible for a union to organize its own group medical care plan. Backed by the American Medical Association, the 1945 law was similar to legislation made effective in many other states.

Thomas J. Burke, president of a Chicago local of AFL janitors, was a leader in the movement for the new legislation.

"Our work in this cause has just begun. Now we must make the voluntary health service plan a living, vital force for a happier, a healthier Illinois," he said.

"For the great number of people in the lower-middle and middle-income groups, proper medical care, and especially preventative medical attention, carries a forbidding price tag.

"Few families of moderate means can stand the economic burden of sudden and prolonged illness. The great majority of our citizens and most union members find themselves in this situation."

In 1949, the Building Service Employes' Joint Council, No. 1, with which Mr. Burke's local is affiliated, appointed a health and welfare committee to develop health planning.

The committee found its own proposed medical service plan was illegal under the 1945 law. The council then took its fight to the Illinois State Federation of Labor, which backed the long battle for the new enabling legislation.

Indorsement of the plan, in principle, was obtained from the Illinois State Medical Society, Mr. Burke said.

The new laws provide for establishment of health service plan corporations, not for profit, to offer medical care to subscribers. Each corporation shall be managed by 7 or more trustees, of whom at least 30 percent shall be licensed physicians. All trustees are elected by the subscribers.

ITU Seeks End to 8-Percenters Running Cash-Register Dailies

(Excerpt from Texarkana, Ark., Daily News-Digest, first issue of new newspapers to be published in 9 cities by AFL International Typographical Union.)

The free press of America was started by free men who were craftsmen as well as editors and statesmen, such as Benjamin Franklin and Horace Greeley.

They were publisher, editor, typesetter, proofreader, pressman, advertising and circulation manager and copy boy. They were bold in their imagination and brave in their opinions.

From their solid beginning grew the greatest free press in the world. But somewhere along the line the boldness gave way to timidity, and opinion became a stereotyped commodity; editing a newspaper became an 8 percent business.

With the launching of Daily News-Digest the cycle starts its second swing round. Instead of the one-man newspaper, today's printers, recognizing the era of specialization, are hiring publishers and editors, business managers and office girls to give the reading public an alternative to 'cash-register newspapering.'

Today's printers are working in the great American tradition of competition and free enterprise, a tradition that is slowly crumbling under the pressure of monopoly. Daily News-Digest will seek to revive the spirited competition that made America great by operating in communities where monopoly control of the press gives the people a one-sided and misguided viewpoint on the nature of the critical issues of the day.

The International Typographical Union is the direct descendant of the early printers who gave America its free press. In its hundred years of growth it has set up a single guide—to keep its members free, able and willing to sell their labor as craftsmen and to keep the craft intact. It has absorbed the evolution of the industry for a hundred years and it intends to continue to do so.

Halley Alerts Labor Unions to Fight New Gangland Attempt to Infiltrate

By RUDOLPH HALLEY
(Counsel for Kefauver Crime Committee in "The Hat Worker," official publication AFL United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers)

New York.—Right after prohibition was repealed, gangland was forced to find substitute sources of income, first in kidnapping and bank robbery.

When these proved too dangerous and haphazard, gangsters turned to efforts to infiltrate labor unions and bleed worker and employer alike.

A series of prosecutions in the late '30s had a strong deterrent effect on these operations, and at about that time the large gang operators turned their principal attention to gambling.

Now, as attention is being focused on the huge profits and serious evils arising out of the dope traffic and the gambling revenues of the top gangsters, there are strong indications that they and their subordinates are turning their attention once more to the labor unions.

We hear of bombings in New Jersey and Illinois. We hear of muscle operations and violations in many cities.

We learn, as we did in connection with New York's seamy waterfront, that the gangsters play both sides of the fence and serve as armed guards for strikebreakers at the same time that they attempt to gain power in unions by doing violence to labor membership and leaders alike.

These activities, like the activities of the gangsters in the dope and gambling rackets, must be stymied. By bringing them to light, it will be possible to discourage greedy politicians from protecting those who would once again attempt to bring gangsterism into the labor field. This area may well be the next principal battlefront of our war on organized crime.

It is an area in which labor has a very large stake and it will be to the great interest of labor to watch carefully for evidences of inroads by gangsters and to make sure that organized labor has the protection and the support of honest and courageous public officials.

This is not a fight for slackers. It will be necessary to stand up in large numbers and show a vigorous determination to discourage this next onslaught of gangland.

Leheney Thanks Labor Press

Washington.—Raymond F. Leheney, secretary-treasurer AFL Union Label Trades Department, thanked labor newspapers for their coverage of the Union Industries Show in Chicago in May.

"This year, more than ever before, the nation's labor journals and newspapers played a most important role in making the 1951 Union Industries Show an outstanding success," he said.

"It is in this respect that I should like to express my sincerest appreciation to those editors who have given the show national prominence by so liberally devoting space to news items, editorials, special layouts and pictorial features.

"Week after week, month after month and year after year, no group has been more devoted to publicizing the American Federation of Labor and the Union Label, Shop Card and Union Button than the editors of the official monthly labor journals and weekly labor newspapers.

"The executive board of the Union Label Trades Department joins me in expressing thanks for your wholehearted cooperation in publicizing the Union Industries Show and the year-long activities of this department."

LABOR GOES ON AIR

San Jose, Calif.—Radio listeners in Santa Clara County are now given a weekly review of AFL news, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, over Station KSJO, San Jose, through the joint sponsorship of the Santa Clara County Central Labor and Building Trades Councils. William B. Pedigo, editor of the Union Gazette, is announcer.

ASK LABOR PAPERS

Washington.—Editors of labor newspapers are requested by the International Labor Organization to send exchange copies to Labor Counselor's Office, International Labor Organization, 1825 Jefferson Place, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Funeral Directors Probe Requested By Upholsterers

Philadelphia. — President Sal B. Hoffmann of AFL Upholsterers International Union asked Attorney General Robert E. Woodside of Pennsylvania to investigate what he calls scandalous exploitation of a defenseless public by the funeral directors and their industry.

Speaking for organized burial casket worrs in his union, Mr. Hoffmann urged broadening of an inquiry actually begun on the operations of the Philadelphia coroner's office on the request of the president of the Funeral Directors Association of Philadelphia and vicinity.

The president of the Upholsterers Union charged that such huge profits are netted that the industry is a potent source of corruption of any public agency it contacts.

He said these same funeral directors, who charge as high as 4 and 5 hundred percent profit over the manufacturer's price on a casket, are so greedy that they constantly pressure the manufacturers for lower prices and enforce a cut-throat competition which brings terrific pressure against decent wage and other standards for the workers in the burial casket industry.

Mr. Hoffman told Mr. Woodside that the attorney generals in New York and California had, by investigation, corrected some of the gravest abuses.

Insurance policies were virtually looted and the poorest and least educated had the greatest advantage taken of their helplessness in their time of bereavement, Mr. Hoffmann said.

WORK WEEK UP

Washington.—The over-all average work week of production workers in manufacturing, at 40.8 hours in mid-June, was up by nearly one-half hour over the year.

6 Regions Handle Farm Labor Wages

Washington.—The Wage Stabilization Board announced adoption of procedures for regional application of board policies in the stabilization of agricultural wages.

In a resolution implementing General Wage Regulation 11 (Agricultural Labor), the board provided for tripartite committees of the Regional Boards to carry out National Board policies which permit automatic wage rate raises up to 95 cents an hour.

At the outset regional committees will be set up in only 6 areas:

Regions I, II, and III combined (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania).

Region VII (Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin).

Region VIII (Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana).

Region XI (Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico).

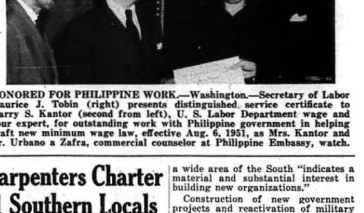
Region XII (Arizona, California, Nevada).

Region XIII (Washington, Oregon, Idaho). Committees will be established in other regions if necessary.

The regional tripartite committees (or regional directors, if necessary) will act for the National Board in hearing petitions for over 10 percent increases. These petitions are expected to increase in number, due to the nearness of crop "seasons" and an anticipated shortage of 250,000 farm laborers. Many of these will be requests for the establishment of area or crop ceilings.

GROSS EARNINGS UP

Washington.—Gross hourly earnings, including overtime and other premium pay, of production workers in manufacturing plants averaged $1.60 in June 1951, up 15 cents from June 1950. Average weekly earnings were $65.44 in mid-June, $6.59 above a year earlier.



HONORED FOR PHILIPPINE WORK.—Washington.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin (right) presents distinguished service certificate to Harry S. Kantor (second from left), U. S. Labor Department wage and hour expert, for outstanding work with Philippine government in helping draft new minimum wage law, effective Aug. 6, 1951, as Mrs. Kantor and Dr. Urbano a Zafra, commercial counselor at Philippine Embassy, watch.

Carpenters Charter 11 Southern Locals

Atlanta, Ga.—The AFL United Brotherhood of Carpenters granted charters to 11 new locals in southern states in a 60-day period.

The locals are located at Portsmouth Navy Yard and Richmond, Va.; Gloster, Collins, Miss.; Forrest City, Whelen Springs, Ark.; Mt. Airy, Charlotte, Kingston, N. C.; Knoxville, Sunbright, Tenn.

J. L. Rhodes, AFL director of organization in southern states, said that the organization progress over a wide area of the South "indicates a material and substantial interest in building new organizations."

Construction of new government projects and reactivation of military installations has created a new demand for carpenters in the South.

BEAT BRIDGES UNION

San Francisco.—Local 12 of the AFL Teamsters warehouse movement beat Harry Bridges' International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union 75 to 5 at the General Foods plant, San Leandro, and the Teamsters Cannery Workers Local 748 routed the same Communist-led outfit 257 to 33 at Pacific Grape Products Co., Modesto.

New 'Controls' Bill Puts Truman on Spot

Washington.—Congress put the nation and President Truman on the spot by passing a new controls bill which will force prices higher and add billions of dollars to living costs and defense costs.

Despite his displeasure with the legislation, it was felt in Washington that the President may have to sign it on the theory that weak controls would be better than no controls at all.

The United Labor Policy Committee, representing more than 15 million organized workers in the AFL, CIO and railroad groups, called an emergency meeting to consider the measure and to determine what action to recommend to the President.

AFL leaders felt that the best that could happen under the new bill, if it becomes law, would be stabilization at a considerably higher level than at present.

However, they pointed out there is no assurance that the cost of living could be stabilized at all under the bill forced through Congress by a coalition of Dixiecrats and reactionary Republicans.

The irony of the situation was emphasized by publication of the monthly cost of living index showing that from May to June there was a decline of one-tenth of 1 percent—a tiny drop, but the first decline of any kind since Feb. 1950.

Organized labor has felt all along that the present controls law was too weak to hold the line effectively against inflation and urged Congress to strengthen it. Instead, Congress blasted gaping holes in the inflation dike by forbidding rollbacks on food products, guaranteeing industrial profits and authorizing rent increases.

In addition, labor economists reported there are many other "joker" amendments in the new bill finally approved by Congress which would inevitably result in driving prices up, instead of forcing them down.

AFL Council Tackles Problems Of Prices, Defense, Politics

CANADA TLC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL—Ottawa, Canada.—Executive Council of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, which invited AFL Executive Council to hold its August 1951 meeting in Montreal, is composed of (front row, l. to r.), William Jenoves, Bricklayers, vice president for Ontario; President Percy R. Bengough, Machinists; Secretary-Treasurer Gordon G. Cushing, Maltworkers Federal Union; back row, l. to r., Claude Jodoin, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, vice president for Quebec; James Whitebone, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes, vice president for Maritime Provinces; Birt Showler, Teamsters, vice president for British Columbia; Carl E. Berg, Hod Carriers, vice president for Prairie Provinces.

Montreal Meet to Chart Policy Suggestions to Convention

Montreal.—Faced with a heavy load of grave domestic and international problems, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor met here to chart policy recommendations to the forthcoming 70th annual convention of the Federation.

First consideration was given to the failure of Congress to adopt an adequate emergency controls law that would permit the government to hold the cost of living down and prevent further inflation.

AFL leaders expressed fears that unless wages are allowed to keep pace with rising prices, the American standard of living would deteriorate and the nation's power to lead the world fight for peace and freedom would be impaired.

On the other hand, it was pointed out that Big Business will undoubtedly seek to pass on higher wage costs to consumers in the form of price increases, thus aggravating the inflationary spiral.

Several members of the Executive Council, just back from attending the conference of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Milan, Italy, were due to make reports on developments in Europe.

They indicated that the free nations of Europe have become encouraged by the defeat of Communist aggression in Korea, as evidenced by truce proposals. The Communists, in the opinion of European labor leaders, would never have made for peace if they felt they could succeed in their Korean invasion.

As a result, a big psychological boost has been given in Europe to America's policy of resisting Communist imperialism, the AFL delegates reported. They felt that America's partners in the Atlantic Pact are more confident than ever before that Soviet Russia's expansionist drive can be halted for good, provided that the defense programs of the free nations are vigorously prosecuted.

Before the regular opening of the Executive Council's session in this thriving Canadian city, the Council met in conference with members of the Executive Board of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress on mutual problems. The close ties between the two organizations were further cemented at the conference.

It was also announced that there will be a meeting here of the Administrative Committee of Labor's League for Political Education, the AFL's political arm. Plans for the 1952 political campaign will be laid at the meeting and efforts concentrated on bringing out the largest possible vote for the presidential and congressional elections.

Los Angeles United Labor Fights High Prices; Petition Congressmen

Los Angeles.—United Labor is fighting high prices throughout Los Angeles County with a "Consumers League Against High Prices."

AFL President William Green told Secretary W. J. Bassett of the Los Angeles Central Labor Council that he knew of no other place where United Labor committees are carrying on such an intensive campaign for so extensive a period.

Mr. Bassett reported that the drive began immediately following the meetings last March 21 of the United Labor Policy Committee in Washington to fight for equality of sacrifice in the defense mobilization program and get a more equitable Defense Production Act.

Television, radio, newspapers, leaflets, placards, demonstrations by housewives, conferences and meetings have been used to carry the campaign to Greater Los Angeles.

The Consumers League Against High Prices also circulated petitions asking their congressmen to vote for a price control law "which will halt the outrageous increase in the cost of living."

The petitions were sent to Sens. William F. Knowland and Richard Nixon; Representatives Patrick Hillings, Jerry Pacht, Samuel W. Yorty, Gordon L. McDonough, Donald L. Jackson, Cecil R. King, Clyde Doyle, Chet Holifield, Carl Hinshaw and Harry R. Sheppard.

Both Mr. Knowland, who comes up for reelection in 1952, and Mr. Nixon ignored the petitions and voted for inflation and against the consumers.

11th Woman Elected to Congress, Winning Over Truman Opponent

Washington.—The 82d Congress gets its 11th woman member—a new high number of women for any Congress in American history.

Mrs. Vera Buchanan, 48, grandmother, widow of the late liberal Rep. Frank Buchanan of McKeesport, Pa., was elected to fill her husband's unexpired term.

The previous week West Virginia voters elected a woman to Congress for the first time when they sent Mrs. Maude Elizabeth Kee to fill the unexpired term of her late husband.

Mrs. Buchanan's election was the third by Democratic nominees this year. In addition to her and Mrs. Kee, Kentucky's 6th district elected John Watts to succeed Tom Underwood, appointed senator to replace the late Virgil Chapman.

Mrs. Buchanan defeated Republican Clifford W. Flegal who said "the election will show whether the people of this district are going to continue to have Truman and Acheson stuffed down their throats or whether they are tired of it."

The female members of the 82d Congress are:

Senate—Margaret Chase Smith, Maine, Republican.

House—Frances P. Bolton, Ohio; Marguerite S. Church, Illinois; Cecil M. Harden, Indiana; Edith Nourse Rogers, Massachusetts; Katharine St. George, New York; Ruth Thompson, Michigan, all Republicans.

Reva Beck, Bosone, Utah; Vera Buchanan, Pennsylvania; Edna F. Kelly, New York; Maude Elizabeth Kee, West Virginia.

Rhodes Raps Davis Stand on Controls

Atlanta, Ga.—J. L. Rhodes, AFL southern organizing director, said that congressmen like James C. Davis of Atlanta "have just about as much value as a representative of the people as would be the intrinsic value of a last year's bird nest."

He made the comment in reporting to AFL members in southern states on Mr. Davis's record on the price and rent control act passed by the House.

Mr. Davis sponsored the amendment approved by Dixiecrats and reactionary Republicans to freeze all wages as of July 7 and some prices, but let food prices and rents go unregulated. The House on a roll call later reversed itself and knocked out the proposal.

SIGN DUMONT

New York.—The AFL Radio and Television Directors Guild announces Dumont network has signed the contract which brings the guild members at Dumont up to the same salary and working conditions in effect through guild contracts at the other networks.

WOMEN WORKERS RISE

New York.—Women will account for one-half of the expected labor force increase between 1950 and 1975.

ILO CONFERENCE SET RECORD

Geneva, Switzerland.—A total of 603 delegates and advisers—a record number—attended the 34th general conference of the International Labor Organization here in Geneva.

Of this number, 111 were titular government delegates, 52 were employer delegates, and 51 were worker delegates.

Sixty of the ILO's 64 member countries were represented, and Japan and the Saar sent observer delegations.

The 4 member countries which did not send delegates were Albania, Ethiopia, Hungary and Iceland.

SHIP CURB

Washington.—The Senate passed a bill sharply restricting the transfer of American-owned ships to foreign-flag registry.

The bill would prohibit ships owned wholly or partially by American citizens or corporations from being transferred to foreign registry without the approval of the State and Defense Departments and the Maritime Board.

Sen. Warren G. Magnuson of Washington, said the purpose of the measure, which goes to the House, was to stop a widespread practice of sailing American vessels under the Panamian flag.

He told the Senate many shipowners evaded United States taxes and laws by registering their vessels with the Government of Panama on the payment of a small fee. As a result, he said, little Panama now has sailing under its flag the fourth largest merchant marine in the world.

AFL maritime unions are fighting the substandard wage and working conditions on the Panamanian-registered ships. The International Transport Workers Federation is considering a world-wide boycott of these ships.

WSB Gives Blanket Okay to 75c Rate

Washington.—The Wage Stabilization Board eliminated the requirement that employers obtain advance board approval before incorporating into their January 1950 base period pay level increases required for compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

That act establishes a minimum wage of 75 cents an hour.

The board last May 25 ruled that wage increases made after Jan. 15, 1950, to comply with the 1949 amendments of the Fair Labor Standards Act, may be incorporated into a company's base period pay level for the purpose of computing allowable increases under General Wage Regulation 6.

At that time, however, WSB said that employers desiring to take such action had to obtain advance approval of the board before making the change. This requirement is eliminated by terms of the new resolution.

Hatters Negotiate 5 Percent Raise

New York.—Although the agreement between the New York millinery manufacturers and the AFL Millinery Workers Union has 5 months to run before it expires on Dec. 13, the employers and the union have just concluded negotiations for a wage increase of 5 percent for all piecework effective July 16.

Alex Rose, president United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union, said that the increase was made to keep up to the union's request for a cost-of-living adjustment.

Employers agreed to an increase of $5 per week for all week workers, which has been in effect for several months, Mr. Rose said.

The negotiations were conducted by the representatives of the Eastern Women's Headwear Association, representing the employers, and the New York Joint Board of Millinery Workers Unions. About 600 millinery plants are affected by the settlement.

TRAINING BOOK

New York.—The first comprehensive handbook of methods and techniques for training union officers, "Union Leadership Training: A Handbook of Tools and Techniques," by A. A. Liveright of the University of Chicago, was published by Harper and Brothers.

For over 3 years Mr. Liveright has directed a team of researchers at the University of Chicago's Union Leadership Training Project in designing a basic kit of discussion materials for union groups. These materials, which have been distributed to 64 universities, 27 international unions, 230 local unions, and to the trade union movement in Europe, Asia and in South America, are described in the book.

60 Million at Work First Half of 1951

Washington.—President Truman's Mid-Year Economic Report said that civilian employment averaged 60,200,000 in the first half of 1951.

In June 61,800,000 persons were at work, an increase of 300,000 over June 1950.

Despite the rising demand for workers, the Council of Economic Advisers said no over-all manpower shortage had developed but that a few important market areas are tight.

Nonagricultural employment, after expanding rapidly in the last half of 1950, has been relatively stable. At 47,100,000 it was at the level of 53,400,000 during the first 6 months of 1951. nonagricultural employment was 2,100,000 more than during the same period a year before.

Nonagricultural employment is now at a level of 53,800,000 workers, having increased 800,000 in the first 2 months of the year, after which it remained steady.

During the first 6 months of last year, unemployment averaged almost 3,960,000. It averaged only slightly more than 2,000,000 during the first 6 months of this year, a reduction of almost 2,000,000 in the number of unemployed.

In May 1951 unemployment was at 1,600,000, its lowest postwar level. There was, however, a seasonal increase in June, mostly students hunting summer jobs, that brought the total number of unemployed to almost 2,000,000.

GET YOUR SHARE?

New York.—In 1947, when output of consumer goods in this country was extremely high, says a Twentieth Century Fund study, an even distribution of these goods among the 60 million wage earners would have given each one $2,750 worth.

New 'Fringe' Rule Adopted by WSB

Washington.—A more equitable policy on contract "fringe" issues as paid vacations and holidays was put into effect by the Wage Stabilization Board.

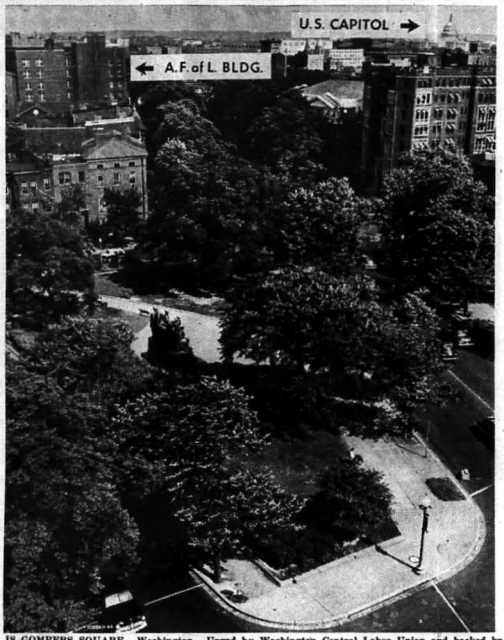
The board's staff is now authorized to approve more paid vacations, paid holidays, premium payments relative to days and hours of work, and call-in allowances up to the limits of area or industry practices.

The new regulation does not apply to health, welfare and pension plans, but the board noted that Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston had asked that it consider policy and regulations for these items as well as for the "fringe" improvements.

Under the new regulation the "fringe" benefits will not be offset against the 10 percent general wage rise ceiling permissible under the general wage control regulation.

It was pointed out that unlike the board's 10 percent catch-up formula, which might be applied by any employer without specific board approval, "fringe" benefits might be liberalized only after petitions were filed and approved.

Requests for approval of paid vacations or other benefits are to be submitted to the nearest wage-hour field office, which will forward the petitions to the Wage Stabilization Board in Washington.



THIS IS GOMPERS SQUARE.—Washington.—Urged by Washington Central Labor Union and backed by the American Federation of Labor, the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission voted to designate the park area where stands the statue to Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL, as "Gompers Square." The heroic statue stands in the center facing Massachusetts Avenue, between 11th Street (foreground) and 10th Street N.W., just one block from AFL national headquarters.

RELEASE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1951

Tobin Praises Labor's Leadership In War on Communistic Ideas

By MAURICE J. TOBIN
Secretary of Labor

In hot war and in cold war, American labor has led in our struggles for freedom, human betterment, and peace. Down through the years American labor has contributed to our progress—economically, politically, and spiritually.

In hot war and in cold war, labor has given its strength without stint.

The toil, sweat and treasure of our workers has supported the men in uniform on far fronts and near, and their production has armed the fighting men and kept the home economy healthy.

Labor-management cooperation, ingenuity and inventiveness, as well as patriotism and zeal, have made possible America's great recent records in producing for defense, and in building anew the economic and military strength of the free world.

On Labor Day last year I hailed the support given by American labor to the United Nations antiaggression action in Korea. On this Labor Day of 1951 it is fitting to note that over and above this continued effort, American labor has thrown itself wholeheartedly into the world-wide war of ideas.

Labor was first and strongest in repudiating the Kremlin brand of communism and imperialism. Labor was quick to point out that one cannot buy security by forfeiting freedom. Labor pointed out that the workers of Russia and the Iron Curtain countries have lost both freedom and security and gained only chains.

Labor is a shield against creeping "take-it-easy" tendencies, which would let inflation weaken our people and our economy. Labor is taking part more and more in international affairs, supporting our foreign aid programs, and carrying the gospel of freedom, betterment and peace to the working peoples of the whole world.

I salute American labor on this Labor Day. It is steadfast and solid. It is doing its part, in a world bedevilled by atheistic communism, to insure that the United States measures up to the greatness of its task—and to insure that good prevails over evil, at home and abroad.

SAMUEL GOMPERS
1850—1924
Founder and First President of the American Federation of Labor

Union Label Week To Open Sept. 2

Washington.—Many churches will hold Labor Sunday services, Sept. 2, beginning the observance of Union Label Week across the nation.

The AFL Union Label Trades Department said that the mayors of hundreds of cities issued proclamations designating Sept. 2-8 as Union Label Week in their communities.

The department issued a new folder, "What Can I Do?", suggested a week-long series of meetings, civic events, social affairs, and publicity on radio and in newspapers to promote goodwill for the American Federation of Labor and union made goods and services.

In a communication to state federations, central and local labor unions, AFL President William Green said in part:

"Time and experience have served to emphasize the importance and the value of the Union Label, Union Shop Card and Union Button. Therefore, I call upon the millions of members of the American Federation of Labor to observe Union Label Week, Sept. 2-8, 1951, in a proper, impressive and comprehensive way.

"The membership of the American Federation of Labor should strive to utilize these emblems in the largest and most fitting manner and encourage the use of the Union Label, Shop Card and Button in the most complete way possible.

"First of all we must carry on our educational activities; make it clear to the wives and families and friends of the workers that the living standards of the workers can be lifted and improved through the purchase of goods bearing the Union Label, and that the strength and influence of organized labor would be thoroughly established if all the families and friends of organized labor would consistently and constantly demand union label goods when purchasing the goods they need.

"Let us renew our pledge during Union Label Week to patronize only firms which display the Union Label, Shop Card and Button."

Samuel Gompers: Editor

Washington.—In addition to all his other leadership activities, Samuel Gompers was a writing man—a labor editor.

The conference in Columbus, Ohio, in December 1886, when the American Federation of Labor was created out of the 5-year-old Federation of Organized Trades, authorized publication of a monthly journal to sell at 50 cents per year.

By the following June, Mr. Gompers relates in "Seventy Years of Life and Labor," there was sufficient money to begin publishing the Trade Union Advocate.

"It was a busy period of the month when the paper went to press," he wrote. "I wrote all the copy in long hand and read all the proof. Henry (Gompers' second son who worked in the first AFL headquarters in New York for $3 a week) wrote all the wrappers.

"When the issue was sent round from the printer, Henry and I worked hard at folding and getting the paper ready for the mail. Usually, a few cigarmakers volunteered to help with this work as they were in the same office and could see our difficulties.

"When all were ready, we loaded them into mail sacks, hired a truck, rode on the end of the truck over to the postoffice, where the mail was weighed and paid for. If I had 10 cents left we rode home, if I had more we had a sandwich apiece, but if I didn't have money we walked and got home in the early hours of the morning."

RELEASE LABOR DAY EDITIONS

Green Broadcasts Message of Cheer To Workers of Europe and Asia

Washington.—AFL President William Green sent Labor Day greetings to the workers of Europe over the world-wide facilities of the Voice of America under arrangements made by the Economic Cooperation Administration.

"The great need of our world today is peace—peace to build greater progress for the future, peace to develop and harness the wonders of science to lighten the labors and the burdens of mankind," he said.

"On this Labor Day, the workers of America are pledging themselves to live up to their responsibility of strengthening the defenses of the free world so that another World War can be prevented. We are committed to the completion of this task in the name of peace.

"In the long run, however, mere military preparedness is not the answer. We must have a showdown with Soviet Russia and a decision which will prohibit aggression and enable the entire world to live in peace.

"The free nations, by standing together firmly against aggression and administering crushing defeats to the aggressors, as in Korea, can hasten the process of bringing Soviet Russia to her senses.

"Labor in America hails the united front of the free world against Soviet imperialism. We want the workers of Europe and Asia and other lands across the seas to know that we are standing with them firmly in defense of freedom and that we will never yield until the triumph of human freedom is secure."

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"Were it not for the labor press, the labor movement would not be what it is today, and any man who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the cause."
SAMUEL GOMPERS
Founder and First President
American Federation of Labor